

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1088

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Johnson E. Saulsberry, Jr., for meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Johnson E. Saulsberry, Jr., is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, appointed by Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mr. Saulsberry has served with acumen and alacrity as Special Assistant to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office since November of 2002, a position in which he has earned the respect of his co-workers and the community alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his position with the Sheriff's department, Johnson Saulsberry also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Graduate Studies in Human Resources, Labor Relations, Negotiating Skills, and Staffing and Selection at Webster University, and lends his skills as an Adjunct Professor with LeMoyne Owen College in Human Resources, Negotiating Skills, Political Science, and Labor Studies and Employee Relations; and

WHEREAS, as Executive Director of Local 1733 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Mr. Saulsberry capably functions as a chief negotiator and political liaison for the public, private, and non-profit sectors; and

WHEREAS, from April of 1987 until January of 1999, he rendered sterling service as an International Representative of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, handling employee problems and conducting investigations of allegations of employee misconduct; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his numerous professional achievements, Johnson Saulsberry has contributed his time and talents as a board member of Girls, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a public servant of the highest order, Mr. Saulsberry is the astute founder and chairman of the April 4th Foundation, Inc., which was created to provide an organized platform for the encouragement, creation, and support of commemorative historical and educational programs on the anniversary of the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968 in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation facilitates and encourages community and national development of programs and events that serve to celebrate and reaffirm its collective belief in economic justice and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, it is the Foundation's noble mission to bridge the gaps created by racial and economic justice, poverty, and lack of education and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, by using the April 4th benchmark, Foundation members and all those honorable people associated with the Foundation are consistently reminded of the progress made and the obstacles yet to overcome in achieving Dr. King's dream of unity; and

WHEREAS, "In honor of the fortieth anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, we determined that the mission of the April 4th Foundation should expand beyond remembering and honoring his work to sharing it," Mr. Saulsberry has stated. "We adopted the mantra, 'Tell the Story...Pass It On.' The Footsteps program is our first endeavor to this end."; and

WHEREAS, over the course of two weeks the Footsteps program will supplement the students' traditional school curriculum. The April 4th Foundation seeks to develop each student's leadership potential by empowering them with the knowledge of the historical persons, events, and sacrifices that made their present situation in society possible; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Mr. Saulsberry is nearing completion of a Doctorate degree in Political Science at Clark-Atlanta University, and holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from Kentucky State University, a Bachelors degree in History from LeMoyne Owen College, as well as numerous certifications; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Johnson Saulsberry for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Johnson E. Saulsberry, Jr., for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, including his laudable work as founder and chairman of the April 4th Foundation, Inc., and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.